

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/695,978

Examiner

Lucy Thomas

Applicant(s)

SCHWEITZER ET AL.

Art Unit

2836

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/25/2007.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5-7 and 14-17.
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

The application has been amended as follows:

Typographical error based on the evidence in Appeal Brief filed on 9/25/2007 (see Claim 14, lines 10-12).

In Claim 14, line 9, following "value;" please insert the following words:

-- comparing the unfiltered m value to a second percentage of the zone reach value to form a second binary output, the second percentage of the zone reach value less than the zone reach value--.

2. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Regarding Claim 1, Guzman-Casillas discloses a system (Figures 6 and 9) for improving the performance of a distance type protective relay for power systems, wherein, the relay includes a calculation circuit responsive to voltage and current values from the power line to produce a quantity (m value) analogous to the distance between the relay and a fault on the power line, wherein the quantity is applied to a distance element (130, 134) for comparison of said quantity with a setting reach value for a selected zone of a protection (Column 2, lines 17-35, Column 8, lines 15-36), the system comprising:

a filter circuit (see 136, 138, 140 in Figure 9) responsive to said quantity for smoothness determination said quantity before the quantity is applied to a relay element 132, resulting in the noise attenuation of the quantity (Column 8, lines 4-14);

and a control circuit (130, 134, 138, 140 in Figure 9 has a comparison and control part) for controlling the application of the filtered quantity to the relay element such that the filtered quantity is applied only when said quantity is above a preselected first threshold value (see 130, $m \leq ZR1NEW\ NO$) and below a preselected second threshold value (see 134 in Figure 9, $m \leq ZR1\ YES$, Also, see Column 9, lines 61-67, Column 10, lines 1-9, 60-63, Column 11, lines 1-9).

Guzman-Casillas differs from the claim as the distance element is placed before the filter, and the filtered m quantity is applied to the relay element, not after the filter to make the filtered m quantity is applied to the distance element as recited in the claim. This feature, in combination with the other recited elements is not disclosed by the prior art of record, and therefore, allowable.

Claim 14 is the method claim corresponding to the system of Claim 1, and therefore allowable for the same reasons recited for Claim 1.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Lucy Thomas whose telephone number is 571-272-6002. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM EST.


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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Sherry can be reached on 571-272-2084. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LT
December 21, 2007


ROBERT L. DEBERADINIS
PRIMARY EXAMINER